

## SOME NOTES ON BUTTERFLIES AND BIG GAME IN KASHMIR.

BY

COL. W. M. LOGAN HOME.

(*With two plates*).

Although I first started butterfly collecting in Kashmir in 1909, I realised, on the eve of my retirement in 1934, that there were still many fairly common Kashmir species which I had not yet added to my collection.

The principal cause of this had been the lack of available information regarding definite localities for the less common species. With, perhaps, the exception of Bingham's, most works on Lepidoptera give only large districts for the various species; such as: 'Kashmir to Kamaon'; Chitral to Ladakh, etc.

Such information is not definite enough for a collector who has only a month or two of leave; and the following notes are written in the hope that they may be of some benefit to fellow collectors who have been similarly handicapped.

It is not claimed that the lists of butterflies are complete; they simply give those actually seen by the writer.

Having secured 8½ months' leave pending retirement, I set about making preparations for a combined butterfly collecting, and big game shooting expedition, in Kashmir in 1934. I arrived at Rawalpindi in March; and motored up to Srinagar in perfect weather.

En route it was interesting to note, at this early date, *Papilio polyctor* and *machaon* in fresh condition at about 2,800 feet, between Kohala and Domel, and further up, *Pieris daplidice moorei* and *Colias croceus edusina*, flying over the short grass at the road side between Baramulla and Srinagar.

On arrival at Srinagar I spent some days making the usual arrangements for Kashmir travel, and during this time I also investigated the foothills round the Dhall Lake.

There was a great hatch out of *Colias c. edusina* here, and a few *Colias hyale*, *Pieris d. moorei*, *Papilio machaon*, *Lycaena phloea*s, *Strymon sassanides* were also noticed. The only uncommon species I took was a single *Euchloe ausonia daphalis*, on a low ridge to the east of the Nishat Bagh.

I left Srinagar at the beginning of April, and spent a few days in the Sind Valley trying to bag a Serow, without success. Butterflies I saw there, were *Argynnis lathonia issoea*, *Vanessa canace himalaya*, *V. cashmirensis* and a few *Pieris rapae* and *Polyommatus eros*. Before leaving Srinagar I had registered my name at the Game Office for Moji nullah, one of the best districts for Markhor; but at that time two other sportsmen had their names

down for it before mine. About the middle of April I left the Serow ground and moved down to Sopor. Here I learnt that the two sportsmen already referred to had relinquished their claim, and accordingly I marched to the Kajnag and crossed into Moji from the Jhelum Valley.

On the way up the nullah *Papilio polyctor* were plentiful, besides *P. machaon*, *Pararge schakra* etc., and I found *Everes diporides* alongside the track at 3,000 feet, and secured a nice series.

At the top of the pass into Moji, at about 9,000 ft. a few *Parnassius hardwickei* and *Pieris callidice kallora* were flying about, with the usual *Argynnis lathonia* and *Vanessa cashmirensis*.

The next two months were spent in the strenuous business of trying to bag a good Markhor. In this I was unsuccessful, and I was greatly disappointed at the scarcity of Markhor in this nullah. Poachers were all over the place when I first entered the nullah, shots being fired nearly every day; and the third day I was there I sighted through my glasses 2 men with slung rifles moving across a snowy ridge on the S.W. side of the nullah. The Game Watcher was not to be found, and in fact never put in an appearance till the day I was leaving, when all he did was to ask me the number of my license; truly adding insult to injury!

A significant point is that I saw no young kids of the year with any of the few does I saw, and it might not be out of place here to wonder whether any members of the Society have been shooting in the Kajnag since that year (1934), and if so whether they can give any information on the position of Markhor there?

In the butterfly line I was unlucky too, I missed the only *Vanessa urticae rizana* I saw. Other species seen in Moji were:—

- Papilio machaon asiatica** C. April-June, 8-10,000 ft.  
**Papilio arcturus arius** R. June, 7,000 ft.  
**Parnassius hardwickei** R. a few seen on 15th April at 9,000 ft. afterwards one only in May, 8,000 ft.  
**Pieris callidice kallora** R. a few seen on April 15th at 9,000.  
**Pieris napi ajaka** V.C. May-June, 7,000.  
**Pieris canidia indica** V.C. May-June, 7,000.  
**Pieris brassicæ** C. May-June, 7,000.  
**Pieris rapæ** N.R. May-June, 7,000.  
**Belenois mesentina** R. 2 only seen, 11,000 ft.  
**Gonepteryx rhamni nepalensis** V.C. May-June, 6-7,000 ft.  
**Gonepteryx aspasia zanaka** C. May-June 8-9,000 ft.  
**Colias croceus edusina** V.C. May-June, 8-9,000 ft.  
**Pararge schakra** N.R. May-June, 6-8,000 ft.  
**Aulocera padma padma** R. 1 only at 8,000 ft., May-June.  
**Neptis s. sankara** R. One only at 8,000 ft., May-June.  
**Vanessa cardui** V.C. 6-9,000 ft., May-June.  
**Vanessa egea kashmira** C. (Spring form) 7-8,000 ft., May-June.  
**Vanessa urticae rizana** R. 1 only at 9,000, May-June.  
**Vanessa c. cashmirensis** V.C. 6-9,000 ft., May-June.  
**Vanessa xanthomela ferveescens** C. 8-9,000 ft., May-June.  
**Argynnis childreni sakontala** C. 8-9,000 ft., May-June.  
**Argynnis kamala** C. 8-9,000 ft., May-June.  
**Argynnis lathonia issoea** V.C. 8-9,000 ft. May-June.  
**Argynnis jerdoni jerdoni** N.R. Very local, large number noticed flying about on small grass slope at about 10,000 ft. on 25th May.  
**Melitea arcesia balbifa** R. 1 only at 8,000 in May.  
**Libythea l. lepita** N.R. 6,000, May-June.  
**Polyommatus eros** N.R. 7,000, May-June.





IBEX GROUND, BISAL NULLAH, SEPTEMBER. Steep slopes haunted by:—*Parnassius jacquemontii* R; *P. epaphus nirius* C; *Auloecra swaha gilgitica*; *Arginina aglata vitatha* R; *A. pales korla* R; *Polyommatus epiron jermyni* R; *P. eros janelae*; *P. omphisa*.



THE SATPA LA, 14,500 FT., JULY. Rocks on the right haunted by:—*Parnassius charltonius* R; *P. delphius nicevillei*, R; *P. epaphus nirius* C.

- Lycæna phloëas indica* V.C. 7-8,000 ft., May-June.  
*Heliophorus bakeri* N.R. glades in pinewoods 7-8,000 ft.  
*Heliophorus androcles coruscans* R. 2 only seen, 7-8,000 ft.  
*Rapala micans setira* N.R. May-June at 7,000 ft.  
*Hesperia alpina* C. May-June at 7,000 ft.  
*Carcharodus altheæ dravira* R. 2 only, 8,000, May.  
*Baoris discreta himalaya* R. 1 only, 8,000 ft., May.

The *Argynnis* and *Vanessa* were very fond of both primulas and viburnum. Early in June I gave up all hope of getting a good Markhor; the jungle was very thick and I only kept on seeing the same animals; so I struck camp and marched back to Srinagar.

I already had my name down for an Ovis Ammon block in S.E. Ladakh, and after laying in a stock of fresh supplies, I set out once more to the Sind Valley.

There were very few butterflies to be seen until I had crossed the Zoji La, but on the north side of the Pass *Pieris callidice kallora* were plentiful and near Dras I secured some *Colias hyale* var: *erale* and a good series of *Polyommatus vicrama cashmirensis*. Neither of these had I seen before.

Near Kharbu I noticed a solitary *Polyommatus omphisa* sitting on some wet sand on the path, and I secured some *Pararge menava menava*. The march from Kharbu to Kargil is a hot one in the summer, though the scenery is very fine, the track winding through rugged mountains, with here and there a distant snow peak; while alongside the track are numerous rose bushes in full bloom. I was glad enough however, to reach the comparative coolness of Kargil's green fields and apricot groves.

Near Kargil I met a sportsman who had been in the district of Ladakh for which I was bound, and he told me he had seen only small male ammon and herds of does there. This was disconcerting news, and after discussing matters with my Shikari, I decided to alter my plans and make for the glacier country at the top of the Shigar Valley in Baltistan. This district was well known to my Shikari; he had been with several sportsmen who had secured good Ibex there, and I considered that there was also a chance of my coming across some uncommon butterflies.

Accordingly after a halt in Kargil, I retraced my steps, and finally arrived at the Satpura nullah, south of Skardu, early in July. Near the village of Kirkitchoo I caught a single specimen of the rare *Polyommatus devanica devanica*. The top of this nullah holds a variety of butterflies, and I spent some interesting days there.

No less than 5 species of *Parnassius* occur in the Satpura, 4 of them flying together on the same ground at 13,000 ft. In this connection an interesting point is that *Parnassius hardwickei* is replaced on the same ground at a later date by *Parnassius epaphus nirius*.

My first visit to the Satpa La was on 18th July and *hardwickei* were abundant then, but I only saw 1 *P. e. nirius*.

When I crossed the Pass on 12th September *P. e. nirius* were swarming, but not a *hardwickei* was to be seen.

It would appear that *hardwickei* passes the winter in the pupa stage, and hatches out soon after the snow has left its haunts; whereas *nirius* passes the winter in the egg stage, the larva hatches out in the early summer and pupates, the imago appearing in the autumn. I saw a fair number of *P. delphius nicevillei*, but only 3 *jacquemonti* and 1 *charltonius*. The latter were flying about among precipitous rocks much higher up than the other 4 *Parnassius*, at about 15,000 ft. and I had no time to go after them.

About the 12th August ♀♀ *charltonius* were observed to be laying their eggs on the large pieces of slaty rock which were strewn about the base of a cliff, round which they were continuously flying.

List of butterflies met with round Skardu.

<i>Parnassius jacquemonti</i> R.	13,000 ft., July-September.	} Top of Satpur Nullah
<i>Parnassius epaphus nirius</i> C.	13,000 ft., August-September.	
<i>Parnassius delphius nicevillei</i> R.	13,000 ft., July.	
<i>Parnassius hardwickei</i> C.	July.	
<i>Parnassius charltonius</i> R.	13-15,000 ft., July-August.	
<i>Pieris brassicæ</i> C.	7,700 ft., July-September, Skardu.	
<i>Pieris rapæ</i> C.	7,700 ft., July-September, Skardu.	
<i>Pieris callidice kallora</i> C.	13,000 ft., July, Satpura.	
<i>Colias hyale</i> C.	7,700 ft., July, Skardu.	
<i>Colias croceus edusina</i> C.	7,700 ft., July, Skardu.	
<i>Aporia leucodice soracta</i> R.	10,000 ft., July, Satpura.	
<i>Pararge menava</i> N.R.	7,700 ft., July, Skardu.	
<i>Maniola lupinus kashmirensis</i> N.R.	7,000 ft., July, Skardu.	
<i>Maniola pulchella</i> N.R.	11,000 ft., September, Satpura.	
<i>Karanasa h. hubneri</i> R.	12-13,00 ft., September, Satpura.	
<i>Argynnis adippe jainadeva</i> R.	11,000 ft., July, Satpura.	
<i>Eumenis parisatis parsis</i> C.	7,700 ft., July, Skardu.	
<i>Everes argiades Indica</i> N.R.	7,700 ft., July, Skardu.	
<i>Polyommatus vicrama cashmirensis</i> N.R.	7,700 ft., July, Skardu.	
<i>Polyommatus christophi samudra</i> N.R.	7,700 ft., July, Skardu.	
<i>Polyommatus astrarche</i> N.R.	7,700 ft., July, Skardu.	
<i>Polyommatus orbitulus</i> R.	14,000 ft., September, Satpura.	
<i>Polyommatus eros janetæ</i> N.R.	July, 7,700 ft., Skardu.	
<i>Hesperia alpina</i> N.R.	11-12,000 ft., July-September, Satpura.	

Owing to a sudden rise of the Indus, I was delayed 4 days in my start for the Shigar Valley, as the ferrymen reported the crossing to be unsafe. By the time they considered the water had fallen sufficiently, a large number of would-be passengers had collected, including cows and ponies, all of which were safely ferried over. A hot march of 16 miles brings one to Shigar, and thence another 60 odd miles to Arundu. Between Shigar and Arundu I saw the following:

- Colias c. edusina* V.C.
- Colias hyale* V.C.
- Eumenis parisatis parsis* C.
- Pararge menava* N.R. in rocky ground.
- Aulocera swaha swaha* R. near Chetrun.
- Vanessa xanthomela fervescens* N.R. round Arundu.
- Vanessa cardui* R.A. few near Arundu.
- Strymon sassanides* N.R. above Chetrun.
- Polyommatus eros* C.
- Polyommatus christophi samudra* N.R.

3 miles below Arundu I caught a few of the rare *Polyommatus astorica* flying among a small aromatic shrub.



In the Chogolungma, August. Meadow in foreground haunted by:—*Colias eogene francesca*, *Karanasa hubneri*, *Polyommatus eros janetae*, *P. omphisa*, *P. orbitulus*, *Lycaena kasyapa*, *Hesperia alpina* and rocks in background by:—*Parnassius delphius chitralica*.



In the Kerolungma, August. Grassy slopes haunted by:—*Colias e. francesca*, *Erebia mani*, *R. Mani-la pulchella*, *M. d. brevistigma*, *R. Polyommatus omphisa*, *P. eros janetae*, *P. epiro jermyni*, *R.*